

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2002

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2296**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Simitian  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Steinberg)**

February 21, 2002

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An act to add Section 5600.95 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to mental health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2296, as amended, Simitian. Mental health: simplification of accounting and reporting requirements.

Existing law ~~makes provision~~ *provides* for mental health services to be provided through various programs, many of which are administered by the counties and the State Department of Mental Health.

This bill would require the State Department of Mental Health, ~~in consultation with state and local agencies and providers of mental health services~~, to examine ~~the accounting and problematic~~ reporting requirements for various mental health programs, ~~and to simplify and to convene a workgroup to make recommendations to modify~~ these requirements to ~~the extent possible~~ *reduce unnecessary paperwork*.

This bill would ~~also~~ require the ~~department~~ *workgroup* to report to the Legislature ~~with its findings and~~ recommendations no later than ~~July~~ *August* 1, 2003, including recommendations for statutory changes necessary to ~~implement the bill~~ *reduce unnecessary and duplicative reporting requirements*.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) There exist multiple ~~funding streams with multiple~~ reporting requirements for mental health services.

(b) The reporting requirements *may* result in excessive amounts of paperwork and reporting burdens on mental health providers. These multiple reporting requirements also can be inconsistent, duplicative, and expensive, thereby resulting in increased cost-of-service delivery and a reduction in available services.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to maximize the use of scarce mental health dollars for direct services and to minimize the paperwork required for providers, consistent with the existence of sufficient accountability ~~or~~ *for* the use of those dollars.

SEC. 2. Section 5600.95 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5600.95. (a) The State Department of Mental Health shall, in order to seek consistency in ~~accounting and~~ reporting requirements for mental health services to the maximum extent feasible, ~~and in consultation with state and local government agencies and providers of mental health services, examine the accounting and reporting requirements of the various programs that provide mental health services including, but not limited to, all of the following:~~

~~(1) Mental health services provided through the Medi-Cal program, including mental health services provided on a fee-for-service basis, and Medi-Cal mental health managed care services provided for pursuant to Part 2.5 (commencing with Section 5775).~~

~~(2) Mental health services provided through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment program.~~

~~(3) Mental health services provided pursuant to the CalWORKs program, Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11200) of Part 3 of Division 9.~~

~~(4) Mental health services provided through the Healthy Families Program pursuant to Part 6.2 (commencing with Section 12693) of Division 2 of the Insurance Code.~~

1 ~~(5) Mental health services provided by county alcohol and drug~~  
2 ~~treatment programs pursuant to Division 10.5 (commencing with~~  
3 ~~Section 11750) of the Health and Safety Code.~~

4 ~~(6) Mental health services provided pursuant to this part or any~~  
5 ~~other county mental health program.~~

6 ~~(b) To the extent statutory changes are not required, the~~  
7 ~~department shall simplify mental health accounting and reporting~~  
8 ~~requirements in accordance with subdivision (a).~~

9 ~~(c) The department shall report to the Legislature no later than~~  
10 ~~July 1, 2003, with its findings and recommendations, including~~  
11 ~~any recommendations for statutory changes necessary to~~  
12 ~~implement this section. examine problematic reporting~~  
13 ~~requirements imposed by local mental health agencies and the~~  
14 ~~department on community mental health service providers.~~

15 *(b) (1) The State Department of Mental Health shall convene*  
16 *a workgroup consisting of representatives from the department, the*  
17 *California Mental Health Directors Association, and mental*  
18 *health service providers. The State Department of Alcohol and*  
19 *Drug Programs shall be encouraged to participate in the*  
20 *workgroup.*

21 *(2) The workgroup shall review some of the more problematic*  
22 *reporting requirements for mental health services and develop*  
23 *recommendations to modify state and county reporting*  
24 *requirements, where appropriate and feasible, in order to reduce*  
25 *unnecessary paperwork.*

26 *(3) The workgroup shall make their recommendations*  
27 *available to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the*  
28 *Legislature no later than August 1, 2003. The recommendations*  
29 *may include statutory changes that would further reduce*  
30 *unnecessary and duplicative reporting requirements.*